(iii).—DEMARCATION.

11. The progress made in clearing boundaries and erecting boundary-marks with cost is given in the following statement:—

Division.	Length of Boundary in miles.	Number of Cairns erected.		Amount spent.	Rate per mile.	Remarks.
		Large.	Small.			
		Boundary marked with cairns.				
				Rs. a. p.		
North Thána ...	88	472	1,131	1,598 6 0	18·2	
Central Thána ...	77	873	...	816 15 6	10·6	
South Thána ...	38¼	740	...	730 1 0	19·08	
Surat	20¾	643	11	480 12 0	22·9	
Total ...	224	2,728	1,142	3,626 2 6	16·01	
		Boundary cleared.				
North Thána ...	14½	...	...	328 11 0	22·7	
Surat	6	...	...	435 12 0	72·6	
Panch Mahals ...	15½	...	...	423 9 0	27·3	
Total ...	36	...	...	1,188 0 0	33·	
Grand Total ...	260	...	...	4,814 2 6	18·5	

North Thaʻnaʻ.

12. The high rate is reported to be due to wages in both the cairn-erecting and line-cutting operations having been paid at the rate of annas four instead of three owing to scarcity in the district. The demarcation was only carried on in the Máhim Range, and it is nearly half finished.

Central Thaʻnaʻ.

13. The lower rate in Central Thána is due to the prescribed lower rate of wages paid to labourers in the Vádá Range, where the demarcation was carried on and completed. No line-cutting was done in this division.

South Thaʻnaʻ.

14. The very high rate in this division is due partly to high wages paid and partly to scarcity of stones in the localities where the demarcation was carried on, so that they had to be brought from long distances. The demarcation was carried on in the Sálsette, Bhiwndi and Kalyán Ranges. No line-cutting was done in this division,

Surat.

15. The rate paid for erecting cairns, 22·9, is high, but considering the scarcity of stones in the places where the work was done, *viz.*, Bulsár and Chikhli, the rate is reasonable. For line-cutting, which was done in the Mándvi Range, the rate was 72·5; but the width of the line cut along the frontier of the Baroda State chiefly as a fire break, was 100 feet, or nearly 6 times wider than in North Thána and 3 times wider than in the Panch Maháls Division. Much demarcation work in the interior of the Mándvi Range remains to be done, but it cannot be taken in hand until the revised settlement is completed and sanctioned.

Panch Mahaʻls.

16. The rate in this division was higher than last year, but it was due to clearing the boundary line completely and permanently by removing stumps of the cut trees.

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 128-2-0 was spent in the divisions for repairing old boundary-marks.

(iv).—SURVEYS.

17. The following statement, received from the Forest Survey, gives the work and its cost during the forest year of 1896-97 with cost:—

Division.	Boundary Surveys.		Total Cost.	Remarks.
	Previous.	Of the year.		
	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Rs. a. p.	
Surat.				
Triangulation 8″	...	141	979 13 11	Mándvi Táluka.
Traversing	...	10		Do. 44 linear miles.
North Thána.				
Detail Survey 8″	...	51·71	9,635 6 8	Máhim Táluka.
Total cost ...	...	...	10,615 4 7	

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(*a*).—Working Plans and their Control.

18. The Working Plans Division was in charge of the following officers during the year :—

1st July 1896 to 12th November 1896	...	Mr. J. Dodgson.
13th November 1896 to 21st December 1896	...	Mr. T. R. D. Bell.
22nd December 1896 to 25th January 1897	...	Mr. R. C. Wroughton.
26th January 1897 to 30th June 1897	...	Mr. G. P. Millett.

Mr. Millett, the permanent Working Plans Officer, was on furlough from 1st July 1896, but he returned within the period of his leave and resumed charge of the division from the 25th January 1897.

19. During the year the Working Plans for the forests of the Godhra Mahál in the Panch Maháls Division and Máhim, Bassein and Vádá of the Thána District were sanctioned by Government. The proposals for the Working Plan of the Kálol Mahál are before Government. The Working Plan of the Tulsi forests belonging to the Municipality of Bombay was prepared and submitted during the year and is also before Government.

20. The forests of the Hálol Mahál, Panch Maháls Division, were examined during the year with a view to the drawing up of a Working Plan for their management, but it was not completed before the close of the year.

21. A Working Plan also for the forests of the Sálsette and Kalyán Ranges of the Thána District was under preparation, but was not completed.

22. In addition to this work the Working Plan Officer during the year supervised the working on the ground of the coupes in the Dáhánu, Máhim and Bassein Ranges. He also supervised the reserve marking in some of the Godhrá coupes in order that the Extra Assistant Mr. Ránade might obtain some idea of the work which he had to carry out throughout the Range under the Working Plan. Finally he supervised the marking on the ground by the Working Plan surveyors both of coupes of the year and in advance in the Thána Divisions.